

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 181271

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, RO (SCHRUMPF, JACK)

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

REF: BUCHAREST 3510, 3547 AND PREVIOUS

1. DECEASED WAS MEMBER OF OHIO VALLEY CHORALE GROUP PERFORMING IN RUMANIA UNDER AUSPICES OF "AMBASSADORS FOR FRIENDSHIP" AND SEMI-OFFICIAL RUMANIA GROUP AS PART OF A CULTURAL PROGRAM. MR. SCHRUMPF DIED AT NEPTUNE (HOTEL OR TOWN ON BLACK SEA). BODY WAS TAKEN TO CONSTANTA FOR EMBALMING AND PREPARATION FOR SHIPMENT. ACCORDING TO A MR. MULL, TEL: 304-277-2200 OR 304-232-2543 SOMEONE IN THE GROUP CALLED THE AMERICAN EMBASSY SUNDAY AUGUST 11 AND RECEIVED A RECORDING STATING CALLER SHOULD CALL AGAIN ON MONDAY. ON MONDAY IN SPEAKING WITH THE EMBASSY OFFICER THEY ASKED HIM TO SIGN SOME PAPERS SO THE BODY COULD COME BACK ON THE SAME PLANE AS THE ONE THE GROUP WAS RETURNING TO THE US ON. ACCORDING TO MR. MULL THE EMBASSY OFFICER REFUSED TO COME TO WHERE THEY WERE TO SIGN THE PAPERS. HE STATED THE RUMANIANS DID EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO RUSH THE RUMANIAN PAPERS THROUGH SO THAT MR. STRUMPF'S BODY COULD COME BACK ON THE SAME PLANE BUT BECAUSE THE EMBASSY OFFICER REFUSED TO COME TO WHERE THEY ASKED HIM TO, THE BODY COULD NOT COME ON THE PLANE WITH THEM AND THUS THE FAMILY HAD TO PAY DOLS 2,100.

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2. MRS. SCHRUMPF HAS CONTACTED THE GOVERNOR OF WEST VIRGINIA AND SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN INCLUDING SENATOR BYRD AND CASTIGATED THE ACTIONS OF THE CONSULAR OFFICER AND EMBASSY BUCHAREST IN THEIR HANDLING OF HER HUSBAND'S

DEATH. SHE PARTICULARLY DEPLORES HAVING TO RAISE DOLS 2,100 FOR THE REPATRIATION OF HIS REMAINS. SHE FEELS THAT THIS EXPENDITURE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN NECESSARY HAD AN EMBASSY OFFICER ACCEDED TO HER REQUESTS AND RENDERED ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR HER HUSBAND'S BODY TO BE SENT BACK ON THE CHARTER PLANE SHE USED TO RETURN TO THE US

WHICH COSTS SHE INTERPRETS WOULD HAVE BEEN PAID BY THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT.

3. SENATOR BYRD'S OFFICE IS ESPECIALLY CHAGRINED OVER HER REPORT THAT THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES WERE EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE, SYMPATHETIC AND GRACIOUS WHILE THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS WERE OF NO ASSISTANCE.

4. THE DEPARTMENT REALIZES THAT THERE ARE OTHER ASPECTS TO THIS CASE NOT CLEARLY OR FULLY ENUMERATED. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER INQUIRIES THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO FURNISH BY TELEGRAM INFORMATION AND CLARIFICATION ON THE FOLLOWING PLUS ANY OTHER RELEVANT EXPLANATIONS:

1) WHAT WAS THE REQUEST TO THE CONSULAR OFFICER CONCERNING THE SHIPMENT OF THE REMAINS? WHAT WAS THE CONSULAR OFFICER'S REPLY AND ITS RATIONALE?

2)WHAT RESPONSIBILITY WAS ASSUMED BY THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE SHIPMENT OF THE REMAINS HAD THEY BEEN RETURNED ON THE FLIGHT WITH MRS. SCHRUMPF? WHAT WERE THE TECHNICALITIES PREVENTING THIS?

3) IS IT TOO LATE TO PREVENT MRS. SCHRUMPF FROM HAVING TO ASSUME THE FULL EXPENSES FOR THE RETURN OF THE REMAINS?

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4) WHAT FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE BY TOUR GROUP MEMBER AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS?

5) MR. RICHARDS STRATTON OF THE "AMBASSADORS FOR FRIENDSHIP" AND PART OF O.N.T., CARPATI WHO ACCOMPANIED THE GROUP IS REPORTEDLY AT AMBASSADOR HOTEL OR NO. 7 GEN. MAGHU BOULEVARD, BUCHAREST. KISSINGER

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